

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06869 301249Z

44

ACTION ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 A-01 (ISO) W

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R 301209Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4556

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 6869

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MARR, MMOL

SUBJECT: GAO REQUEST FOR CLASSIFIED INFORMATION ON BELGIAN ARMED
FORCES

1. ON JUNE 9, 1975 AMBASSADOR RECEIVED LETTER FROM FRANK C. CONAHAN, DIRECTOR U.S. GAO INTERNATIONAL DIVISION, EUROPEAN BRANCH, LOCATED AT USCG FRANKFURT, ANNOUNCING THAT GAO, RESPONDING TO CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS, HAD INITIATED "A REVIEW OF THE FACTORS RELATING TO THE PROCURMENT OF THE XM1 TANK (CODE 951170/951177)." LETTER REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE TO GAO INQUIRY, IF CALLED UPON.
2. GAO TEAM VISITED BRUSSELS AREA IN JULY AND DECLARED ITSELF SATISFIED WITH INFORMATION OBTAINED. HOWEVER, ON JULY 25 GAO OFFICE IN FRANKFURT (4. JAMES A. FOWLER) TELEPHONED EMBASSY MAAG WITH REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ORGANIZATION AND EQUIPMENT OF BELGIAN ARMORED AND INFANTRY MECHANIZED UNITS. THIS INFORMATION IS CLASSIFIED BY BELGIAN GOVERNMENT. IT IS AVAILABLE TO NATO IN DPQ CLASSIFIED NATO SECRET. GAO FRANKFURT ASKS THAT AMEBASY TURN OVER INFORMATION TO IT OR, ALTERNATIVELY, THAT IT ASSIST GAO IN OBTAINING THE DATA FROM BELGIAN MOD.
3. WE ARE INFORMED BY USNATO THAT THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT NATO REGISTRY IN WASHINGTON TO PROPERLY CLARED INDIVIDUALS.
4. USNATO HAS MADE KNOWN TO EMBASSY CONTENT TO STATE 136818. INSTRUCTION IN PARAGRAPH 3 THEREOF DOES NOT PROVIDE GUIDANCE
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FOR PRESENT PRLBLEM. EMBASSY CONSIDERS ITSELF UNABLE TO RELEASE

MILITARY INFORMATION CLASSIFIED BY BELGIAN GOVERNMENT
OR BY NATO. WE ARE LOATHE TO ASK BELGIAN GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE
SUCH INFORMATION UNLESS SO DIRECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.
REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS ASAP.FIRESTONE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 30 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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